

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 23

(By Delegates Caputo, Longstreth and Manchin)

Requesting the Division of Highways to name bridge number 25-9-6.67, currently known as the "Whetstone Bridge" on Whetstone Road near Mannington, Marion County, West Virginia the "Howard 'Junkie' Masters Bridge."

WHEREAS, Howard "Junkie" Masters was born on September 21, 1925, the son of Daniel and Elizabeth Masters; and

WHEREAS, Howard "Junkie" Masters was raised in Mannington, Marion County and joined the Navy on December 7, 1943; and

WHEREAS, Howard "Junkie" Masters served as a gunner on liberty, tanker and victory ships escorting Merchant Marine convoys across the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans during WWII; and

WHEREAS, Seaman 1st Class Howard "Junkie" Masters was honorably discharged from the Navy on March 16, 1946, having served his country with valor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, Howard "Junkie" Masters returned to the Mannington area after the war, where he and his beloved wife of 57 years, Eldora "Dora" Masters, raised two daughters, Linda and Darla, and two sons, Stanley and Harlan; and

WHEREAS, Howard "Junkie" Masters worked at the Mannington junk yard for twenty years cutting scrap metal with a torch, where he

1 acquired his colorful nickname, "Junkie"; and

2 WHEREAS, He then worked as a welder for Pennzoil for twenty-
3 seven years until his retirement; and

4 WHEREAS, It is only fitting and proper that we acknowledge
5 Howard "Junkie" Masters for his devoted service to his country and
6 for a long life well-lived; and

7 WHEREAS, Howard came of age during the Great Depression,
8 endured numerous hardships on behalf of his country in World War
9 II, and then returned home to help build a modern post-war America,
10 where his life personifies the grit, determination and selfless
11 contribution that led Tom Brokaw to name his generation "America's
12 Greatest Generation"; therefore, be it

13 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

14 That the Legislature hereby requests the Division of Highways
15 to name bridge number 25-9-6.67, currently known as the "Whetstone
16 Bridge" on Whetstone Road near Mannington, Marion County, West
17 Virginia the "Howard 'Junkie' Masters Bridge"; and, be it

18 *Further Resolved,* That the Division of Highways is hereby
19 requested to have made and be placed, signs identifying the bridge
20 as the "Howard 'Junkie' Masters Bridge"; and, be it

21 *Further Resolved,* That the Clerk of the House of Delegates
22 forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Secretary of
23 Transportation, Howard "Junkie" Masters and his family members.